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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6549**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1622

**NOTE PREPARED:** Dec 10, 2002

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Soil and water conservation district examinations.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Friend

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** ☒ **GENERAL**  
☐ **DEDICATED**  
☐ **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill specifies that soil and water conservation districts shall be charged \$45 per day per examiner for examinations by the State Board of Accounts (SBA). Under current law, the districts pay the actual costs of the examinations.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2003.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:**

**Explanation of State Revenues:** The average audit for soil and water conservation districts costs about \$500 with an average audit time of about two days. The average cost of the audit as a percent of the budget for all districts ranged from a low of 0.38% in Marion County to a high of 8.54% in Hancock County.

Under the proposal, districts would reimburse the SBA at a rate of \$45 per day per examiner or, on average, \$90, for a difference of \$410 (\$500 minus \$90). All 92 counties have a soil and water conservation district. Multiplying the reduction in revenue of \$410 by the number of districts, or 92, would result in an estimated decrease in revenue of \$37,720. Audits are to be conducted on the districts once every two years, so the annual reduction in revenue would equal \$18,860 (\$37,720 / 2).

Audit fees collected are deposited in the State General Fund.

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** Soil and water conservation districts statewide could save an estimated \$18,860 per year on audit costs.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** SBA.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

**Information Sources:** Larry Tippin, Office Supervisor, Special Districts, SBA, (317) 232-2517.

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